2014 Annual Report

United Palestinian Appeal
Transforming lives, empowering communities since 1978
From the Board

The summer of 2014 marked the third time in six years that Israel sowed death and devastation on the helpless Gaza Strip. The 50-day Israeli assault and invasion killed over 2,200, most of them civilians. UPA responded immediately with emergency relief totaling $10.6 million.

During the war and its immediate aftermath, we were heartened to see the solidarity among the people of Gaza and the resilience of those who lost their loved ones, their homes and their possessions. We were also overwhelmed by our donors’ generosity, compassion and support in response to this catastrophe.

Despite the great financial burden the situation in Gaza imposed on UPA and similar organizations during 2014, UPA continued its support of Palestinian communities in the Middle East through its ongoing programs – Children’s Fund, Food Program, Scholarship Program – and development projects. Because of the high priority UPA placed on emergency relief during the year, however, some development projects had to be delayed until 2015.

The work highlighted in the following pages would not have been possible without your donations. Thank you.

Mission

United Palestinian Appeal is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, especially those living in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and refugee camps throughout the Middle East, and to contribute to the long-term socioeconomic and cultural development of Palestinian society.

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2014 by the Numbers

Emergency Relief for Gaza
$10,553,011

Children helped by the Children’s Fund
9,400

Fed by the Food Program

Children fed by the Food Program
1,500

University Scholarships
60

Financial Summary

In 2014, UPA had a total income of $12,169,585 and total ending net assets of $4,377,471.

Program Expenses
2014 program outlays totaled
$11,462,850

- 95% Health and Welfare (inc. Emergency Relief)
- 2% Community Development
- 2% Education and Scholarships
- 1% Outreach and Public Information

Total Expenses
2014 expenses totaled
$11,835,004

- 97% Programs
- 2% Management
- 1% Fundraising

Top-Rated for Three Years

For the past three years, Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator, has given UPA its highest rating—four out of four stars—because of its financial health, accountability and transparency.

UPA is committed to disbursing funds responsibly and efficiently. Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990s for 2014 and prior years are available online at helpupa.org/reports.
Health and Welfare

Emergency Relief

Al Awda Hospital (North Gaza, Gaza Strip): Al Awda Hospital received medicines and medical supplies purchased locally for life-saving treatments during the Gaza war.

Al-Huda Development Association (Khan Younis, Gaza Strip): Two hundred displaced families received emergency food parcels and portable stoves.

Hospitals in the Gaza Strip: Medical centers received pharmaceuticals worth a total of $10.4 million.

Ma’an Development Center (Gaza City, Khan Younis, North Gaza, Rafah) Two thousand, seven hundred displaced people received emergency food vouchers, fulfilling their basic needs for two weeks. In addition, 1,850 children received psychosocial support to cope with the effects of the attacks. Ma’an also distributed hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets and pillows.

Palestinian Wefaq Association (North Gaza, Gaza Strip): Two hundred displaced families received emergency food vouchers.

Children from displaced families in Gaza participate in supportive group activities at a UN school during the war.
Save Youth Future Society (Gaza City, Gaza Strip): Sixty-six internally displaced families whose primary breadwinner was killed or injured during the war received food items to cover their needs for three months.

Social Support Society (Naher El Bared Refugee Camp, Lebanon): Sixty-nine elderly residents and thirty young unemployed camp residents of Naher el Bared received supplies to tend to their community vegetable gardens.

Al-Huda Development Association (Khan Younis, Gaza Strip): One hundred impoverished families received food parcels. One hundred farmers attended workshops on home gardening and received tree and plant seed packets to start their own sustainable home gardens.

Green Land Society for Health Development (Hebron, West Bank): Forty-five families received food parcels for Iftar meals. One hundred children from poor families also received presents to celebrate Eid.

Palestinian Association for Education and Environmental Protection (Gaza City, Gaza Strip): Forty-five food-insecure men and women over 60 years old received a food basket during Ramadan.

Palestinian Wefaq Association (North Gaza, Gaza Strip): One hundred impoverished families with children received baskets of fresh vegetables purchased through the local agriculture sector.
**Children’s Fund**

The UPA Children’s Fund works to foster a nurturing and stimulating environment for children that allows them to realize their full potential. The Fund supports projects that serve orphaned, disabled or impoverished Palestinian children.

The Children’s Fund works in cooperation with reputable orphanages, schools and welfare societies throughout Palestinian communities to implement projects in three categories: Education; Health & Nutrition; and Recreation.

**Palestinian Happy Child Centre (Ramallah, West Bank):**
Over four hundred children with special needs participated in recreational day trips and shows designed to instill hope and happiness in their lives.

**Afaq Jadeeda Association (Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip):**
Forty children in Gaza received art supplies for psychosocial art therapy activities.

**Alrowwad Cultural and Theater Society (Aida Refugee Camp, West Bank):**
Over five thousand students broke free from the typical educational environment and absorbed information in a spontaneous way through the resources of a play bus that visited 30 schools.

**Afaq Jadeeda Association (Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip):**
Forty children in Gaza received art supplies for psychosocial art therapy activities.
Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (Gaza City, Gaza Strip): Thirty children with hearing disabilities participated in drama sessions and cooperative games to enhance their psychological well-being following the war in Gaza.

National Institute of Social Care and Vocational Training (Rashidieh and Ein El Hillweh Refugee Camps, Lebanon): One hundred and twenty students from the Beit Atfal Assumoud kindergarten participated in educational play, puppet shows, storytelling, outside activities and picnics.

Unite Lebanon Youth Project (Beirut, Lebanon): Twenty-five Palestinian and twenty-five underserved Lebanese children learned about art and teamwork in group settings to encourage them to be positive change-makers within their communities.

Al-Malath Charitable Society (Beit Sahour, West Bank): Twenty individuals with special needs participated in music, theater, games and choir activities. Also, parents attended a workshop on creative methods to support the work of Al-Malath.
Education and Scholarships

Capacity Building

Community Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled (Gaza Refugee Camp, Jerash, Jordan): Staff and volunteers received training on best practices for working with disabled children. The Center also conducted outreach to camp employers and teachers on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Scholarship Program

Since 1986, UPA’s Scholarship Program has helped over 2,000 Palestinian students realize their dream of higher education. Recipients must demonstrate academic excellence, financial need and a desire to give back to Palestinian society. During 2014, UPA awarded 60 degree-long scholarships for students at nine universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

“I come from a simple, education-loving family living in a refugee camp,” said Yaqueen Bushkar at An-Najah University. “My father, a teacher, cannot afford my university tuition. I love computer engineering and aspire to open my own programming company one day. The UPA scholarship is very important to me, as someone who loves creativity and wishes to take part in the IT revolution.”

Health Care Society (Saida, Lebanon): One dozen Palestinians received life-saving kidney dialysis at the only hospital in Lebanon to serve Palestinian refugees. HCS also purchased two new dialysis machines to help meet the needs of Palestinian refugees from Syria.

Al-Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital (Jerusalem): In 2014, UPA awarded a grant to allow Makassed to continue to offer essential medical services to Palestinians following the Gaza war.
Community Development

Acre Women’s Association-Pedagogical Center (Acre, Israel): Provided funds for the AWA to disburse loans to women who play the primary role of providing for their families. These loans were used to finance much-needed repairs to homes in the historic city, which provided an alternative to emigration. This project helped to maintain the Arab identity of Acre and support women in their homes and small businesses.

Al-Bayyara Playgrounds Project (West Bank and Gaza Strip): UPA continued support for the construction of outdoor playgrounds throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip in residential areas that lack green spaces for children to play. Al-Bayyara (which means “orange orchard” in Arabic) has converted dangerous lots into places of safety and fun, and employs dozens of construction workers. The project was implemented in partnership with the Bank of Palestine, American Near East Refugee Aid, the Basem and Muna Hishmeh Foundation and the Welfare Association.

Scholarship Program (cont.)

Students graduating from Bethlehem University.

UPA scholarship recipients studying at Birzeit University.
UPA was established as a non-profit organization in 1978 in the State of New York by a group of Palestinian-Americans who shared the vision of creating a charity that would assist Palestinians in need. Included below are some of UPA’s past accomplishments.

1985-1990
UPA funds the construction of a $2.4 million nursing college on the Mount of Olives, the first modern four-year nursing institution in Palestine.

1985-1987
UPA sends $450,000 in emergency medicines and supplies to Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon.

1986
UPA initiates child sponsorship and university scholarship programs.

1987
With the outbreak of the first intifada, UPA shifts its funding priorities to emergency medical relief for intifada-related injuries.

1989
UPA becomes the first Palestinian-American charity accepted by the United States Combined Federal Campaign.

1994
In the wake of the Oslo agreement, UPA focuses on programs aimed at the long-term socioeconomic recovery and development of Palestinian society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2002-2004
In response to unemployment caused by the second intifada, UPA receives a $2.7 million grant from USAID for an emergency employment generation project in partnership with the Welfare Association.

2009
UPA provides water, food, first-aid kits and plastic sheeting to those devastated by the war in the Gaza Strip.

2013
UPA completes three major projects: building a children’s library in Beit Jala, establishing an Audiology and Speech Disorder Center at Birzeit University and the renovation and expansion of the Kidney Dialysis Center at Al-Hamshari Hospital in Saida, Lebanon.

2010-2014
UPA’s In-Kind Donations Program distributes $35 million in pharmaceuticals to the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, children’s books to the Gaza Strip, textbooks to Al-Quds University and blankets and baby clothes to Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria.

For more information visit www.helpupa.org
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